

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for distributing product entitlements to frequent shopper program members, comprising the steps of:

capturing frequent shopper program member data including individual member account numbers and related product purchase histories from a central retailer server using a computer network and transferring the captured data to a central host system database;

comparing the product purchase history of each member account number to a database of available product entitlements;

selecting a list of available product entitlements to be associated with each member account number based on the comparison;

activating a dispenser within the retail store which is accessible to frequent shopper program members by entering information identifying a frequent shopper member account number; and

communicating the previously selected list of entitlements for the frequent shopper member account number which activated the dispenser to the dispense and printing the previously selected product entitlements

2. The process of claim 1, including the step of sorting the captured data by member account number.

3. The process of claim 1, including the step of categorizing the product purchase history of each member account number into various product categories.

4. The process of claim 1, including the step of sending the selected list of entitlements to predetermined host system computers within individual retail stores.

5. The process of claim 1, wherein the printing step includes printing coupons representing the previously selected entitlements.

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6. The process of claim 5, wherein the printed coupon includes product information, rebate information and a bar code thereon.

7. The process of claim 6, including the step of redeeming the product entitlements by matching the entitlements to universal product codes of purchased products scanned at a point-of-sale checkout stand.

8. The process of claim 7, wherein the redeeming step includes scanning the bar code on the printed coupon at the point-of-sale checkout.

9. The process of claim 1, wherein the printing step includes printing a shopping list of the previously selected entitlements.

10. The process of claim 9, wherein the shopping list includes a list of products and rebate information for each listed product.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the printed shopping list is organized in such a manner that the frequent shopper program member is led through the retail store from the dispenser to the point-of-sale checkout in a convenient manner.

12. The process of claim 10, wherein the printed coupons and shopping list includes the aisle number on which each product subject to the list of product entitlements can be found.

13. The process of claim 9, wherein the shopping list includes a bar code which identifies the frequent shopper program member account number.

14. The process of claim 9, including the step of relaying the previously selected list of entitlements sent to the dispenser to a retail store computer in order to allow the matching of the shopping list of entitlements to products purchased at the point-of-sale checkout during redeeming step.

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15. The process of claim 14, including the step of relaying the previously selected list of entitlements to the central retailer server.

16. The process of claim 1, including the step of periodically transferring frequent shopper program member transactional data from the retail store computer to the retail store's central server.

17. The process of claim 1, wherein the activating step includes the step of swiping a card bearing a magnetic strip containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

18. The process of claim 1, wherein the activating step includes the step of scanning a bar code containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

19. The process of claim 1, wherein the activating step includes the step of keying in a number which is associated with the frequent shopper program member account number.

20. A process for distributing product entitlements to frequent shopper program members, comprising the steps of:

capturing frequent shopper program member data including individual member account numbers and related product purchase histories from a central retailer server using a computer network and transferring the captured data to a central host system database;

sorting the captured data by member account number and categorizing the product purchase history of each account number into various product categories;

comparing the product purchase history of each member account number to a database of available product entitlements;

selecting a list of available product entitlements to be associated with each member account number based on the comparison;

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communicating the previously selected list of entitlements for the frequent shopper member account number which activated the dispenser to the dispenser and printing the previously selected product entitlements.

22. The process of claim 20, wherein the printing step includes printing coupons representing the previously selected entitlements.

24. The process of claim 23, including the step of redeeming the product entitlements by matching the entitlements to universal product codes of purchased products scanned at a point-of-sale checkout stand.

26. The process of claim 20, wherein the printing step includes printing a shopping list of the previously selected entitlements.

28. The process of claim 27, wherein the printed shopping list is organized in such a manner that the frequent shopper program member is led

29. The process of claim 28, wherein the printed shopping list includes the aisle number on which each product subject to the list of product entitlements can be found.

31. The process of claim 27, including the step of relaying the previously selected list of entitlements sent to the dispenser to a retail store computer in order to allow the matching of the shopping list of entitlements to products purchased at the point-of-sale checkout during redeeming step.

33. The process of claim 20, including the step of periodically transferring frequent shopper program member transactional data from the retail store computer to the retail store's central server.

35. The process of claim 20, wherein the activating step includes the step of scanning a bar code containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

36. The process of claim 20, wherein the activating step includes the step of keying in a number which is associated with the frequent shopper program member account number.

37. A process for distributing product entitlements to frequent shopper program members, comprising the steps of:

capturing frequent shopper program member data including individual member account numbers and related product purchase histories from a central retailer server using a computer network and transferring the captured data to a central host system database;

sorting the captured data by member account number and categorizing the product purchase history of each account number into various product categories;

comparing the product purchase history of each member account number to a database of available product entitlements;

selecting a list of available product entitlements to be associated with each member account number based on the comparison;

sending the selected list of entitlements to predetermined host system computers within individual retail stores;

activating a dispenser within the retail store which is accessible to frequent shopper program members by entering information identifying a frequent shopper member account number;

communicating the previously selected list of entitlements for the frequent shopper member account number which activated the dispenser to the dispenser and printing the previously selected product entitlements;

redeeming the product entitlements by matching the entitlements to universal product codes of purchased products scanned at a point-of-sale checkout stand; and

periodically transferring frequent shopper program member transactional data from the retail store to the retail store's central server.

38. The process of claim 37, wherein the printing step includes printing coupons representing the previously selected entitlements.

39. The process of claim 38, wherein the printed coupon includes product information, rebate information and a bar code thereon.

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40. The process of claim 39, wherein the redeeming step includes scanning the bar code on the printed coupon at the point-of-sale checkout.

41. The process of claim 37, wherein the printing step includes printing a shopping list of the previously selected entitlements.

42. The process of claim 41, wherein the shopping list includes a list of products and rebate information for each listed product.

43. The process of claim 42, wherein the printed shopping list is organized in such a manner that the frequent shopper program member is led through the retail store from the dispenser to the point-of-sale checkout in a convenient manner.

44. The process of claim 43, wherein the printed shopping list includes the aisle number on which each product subject to the list of product entitlements can be found.

45. The process of claim 42, wherein the shopping list includes a bar code which identifies the frequent shopper program member account number.

46. The process of claim 41, including the step of relaying the previously selected list of entitlements sent to the dispenser to a retail store computer in order to allow the matching of the shopping list of entitlements to products purchased at the point-of-sale checkout during redeeming step.

47. The process of claim 37, wherein the activating step includes the step of swiping a card bearing a magnetic strip containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

48. The process of claim 37, wherein the activating step includes the step of scanning a bar code containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

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49. The process of claim 37, wherein the activating step includes the step of keying in a number which is associated with the frequent shopper program member account number.

50. A process for distributing product entitlements to frequent shopper program members, comprising the steps of:

capturing frequent shopper program member data including individual member account numbers and related product purchase histories from a central retailer server using a computer network and transferring the captured data to a central host system database;

sorting the captured data by member account number and categorizing the product purchase history of each account number into various product categories;

comparing the product purchase history of each member account number to a database of available product entitlements;

selecting a list of available product entitlements to be associated with each member account number based on the comparison;

sending the selected list of entitlements to predetermined host system computers within individual retail stores;

activating a dispenser within the retail store which is accessible to frequent shopper program members by entering information identifying a frequent shopper member account number;

communicating the previously selected list of entitlements for the frequent shopper member account number which activated the dispenser to the dispenser and printing the previously selected product entitlements in the form of coupons; and

redeeming the product entitlements by matching the entitlements to universal product codes of purchased products scanned at a point-of-sale checkout stand.

51. The process of claim 50, wherein the printed coupon includes product information, rebate information and a bar code thereon.

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52. The process of claim 51, wherein the redeeming step includes scanning the bar code on the printed coupon at the point-of-sale checkout.

53. The process of claim 50, including the step of periodically transferring frequent shopper program member transactional data from the retail store computer to the retail store's central server.

54. The process of claim 50, wherein the activating step includes the step of swiping a card bearing a magnetic strip containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

55. The process of claim 50, wherein the activating step includes the step of scanning a bar code containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

56. The process of claim 50, wherein the activating step includes the step of keying in a number which is associated with the frequent shopper program member account number.

57. A process for distributing product entitlements to frequent shopper program members, comprising the steps of:

capturing frequent shopper program member data including individual member account numbers and related product purchase histories from a central retailer server using a computer network and transferring the captured data to a central host system database;

sorting the captured data by member account number and categorizing the product purchase history of each account number into various product categories;

comparing the product purchase history of each member account number to a database of available product entitlements;

selecting a list of available product entitlements to be associated with each member account number based on the comparison;

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62. The process of claim 57, including the step of relaying the previously selected list of entitlements sent to the dispenser to a retail store computer in order to allow the matching of the shopping list of entitlements to products purchased at the point-of-sale checkout during redeeming step.

64. The process of claim 57, wherein the activating step includes the step of swiping a card bearing a magnetic strip containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

65. The process of claim 57, wherein the activating step includes the step of scanning a bar code containing the frequent shopper program member account number.

66. The process of claim 57, wherein the activating step includes the step of keying in a number which is associated with the frequent shopper program member account number.